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Message Text

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71
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01

/185 W
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R 111845Z OCT 73
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHD 5865
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGE

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EO 11652 NA
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EEC, US, OVIP (ORTOLI, FRANCOIS-XAVIER)
SUB: ORTOLI VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 119681

1. ACCORDING TO COMMENTS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OFFICIALS OF THE COMMISSION WHO ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT ORTOLI ON HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON, ORTOLI WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE VISIT. HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED BY THE SPECIAL COURTESIES SHOWN HIM AT THE WHITE HOUSE AND AT THE DEPARTMENT. HIS SATISFACTION IS NOT ONLY WITH THE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WHICH HE HAD WITH
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THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY BUT ALSO WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS

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FOR THE VISIT AND THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE WHICH SURROUNDED IT. THE ACCOUNT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TALKS WE RECEIVED FROM OUR COMMISSION CONTACTS IS CONSISTENT WITH THAT REPORTED IN REFTEL.

2. RIGHT AFTER ORTOLI'S RETURN TO BRUSSELS THE EC COMMISSION SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TO THE PRESS THAT IN REPORTING TO HIS COMMISSION COLLEAGUES ON THE VISIT, ORTOLI UNDERSCORED THE "EXTREMELY POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE CHARACTER" OF HIS DIS-CUSSIIONS IN WASHINGTON.ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, ORTOLI INDICATED HIS AGREEMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT THAT "THERE SHOULD BE A FRANK AND WIDE COOPERATION" BETWEEN THE EC AND THE US WHICH, WHILE NOT EXCLUDING COMPETITION, WOULD AVOID CONFRONTATIONS.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ORTOLI AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE IMPRESSED BY THE HIGH LEVEL OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND, AS ORTOLI PUT IT, "WITH WHAT WAS SAID AND WAHT WAS NOT SAID". OUR SOURCES NOTED THAT ORTOLI'S DICSUSSIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY DEALT WITH THE BROAD POLITICAL FRAMEWORK OF OUR RELATIONSHIP AND AVOIDED RECRIMINATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF GRIEVANCES. AS WELLENSTEIN PUT IT, THIS WAS THE FIRST VISIT IN HIS LONG EXPERIENCE WHERE THE COMMUNITY WAS NOT PRESENTED WITH A LAUNDRY LIST OF COMPLAINTS. ORTOLI WAS DELIGHTED THAT HIS TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY FOCUSED ON THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES IN EC-US RELATIONS AND LEFT THE DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC TRADE PROBLEMS TO THE BREAKFAST MEETING THE SECOND DAY WITH OTHER US OFFICIALS; HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE DISCUSSION OF MONETARY ISSUES.

4. NOEL CONFIRMED TO US THE IMPORTANCE THE COMMISSION ATTACHES TO OUR REMAINING IN CLOSE TOUCH CONCERNING THE TIMING OF NEXT STEPS IN THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (REFTEL PARA 9). THE COMMISSION WOULD BE CONCERNED IF THE TRADE BILL WENT OVER TO NEXT SPRING BECAUSE THE MTN MIGHT LOSE MOMENTUM. THE COMMISSION DOES NOT WANT TO DELAY TOO LONG IN ASKING FOR ITS OWN MANDATE IN ORDER NOT TO BE BLAMED FOR DELAYING THE NEGOTIATIONS BUT NEITHER DOES IT WISH TO ACT PREMATURELY LEST THE COMMUNITY DEVELOP POSITIONS THAT COULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE US NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY.

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5. COMMENT: IN WELCOMING THE FACT THAT ORTOLI AND THE COMMISSION ARE PLEASED WITH THE WASHINGTN VISIT, WE HAVE PROINTED OUT TO SENIOR COMMISSION OFFICIALS THAT CONCENTRATION ON FUNDAMENTAL ASPECTS OF US-EC RELATIONS SHOULD NOT BE MIS-INTERPRETED AS LACK OF US INTEREST OR CONCERN ON SPECIFIC TRADE ISSUES THAT ARE OBVIOUSLY MORE APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION ON OTHER OCCASIONS AND IN SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT CONTEXTS.
GREENWALD

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